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GRAVEL ROADS NOW POPULAR

Much in Demand in Michigan, Where Many Are Built.

HOW THEY ARE CONSTRUCTED.

Deputy State Highway Commissioner Gives Many Valuable Points on the Proper Building of This Practical Highway, Saying, "If You Have Gravel Build a Gravel Road."

A well graded and well drained earth road is necessary for the foundation of any kind of an improved road; therefore money expended on such work is not lost even though it be several years before the road receives a hard surface, says Frank P. Rogers, deputy state highway commissioner of Michigan.

The cost of grading depends upon the kind and amount of earth that must be moved and the distance it has to be moved. Where old roads have been regarded for the purpose of building state road gravel roads in Michigan the cost has usually run from \$200 to \$400 a mile, \$200 being a fair average. A few hilly roads have been graded at a cost of more than \$2,000 a mile.

In clay soils trenches should be cut, making outlets into the side ditches or water that may collect in the gravel bed during construction and later before the surface becomes hard and waterproof.

Next to proper drainage the most important thing in building gravel roads is to secure a good quality of gravel. The average gravelly composition and farmers generally have become so imbued with the idea that it is necessary to use a gravel that will pack quickly that they have almost lost sight of the fact that the only

A good water certainly does make a difference in the size of a fellow's coat bill.

There are only about 100,000 pounds of water in the world, and all of it is owned by one man, who has control of the market in this product.

The present is a good time to start the campaign against flies by removing from the premises all filth and garbage piles, which are the breeding places of these disgusting and dangerous pests.

In the interest of public health a more active campaign should be waged against the custom of grocers of displaying foodstuffs without protection from dust and flies. An even greater menace to health are the fruit and candy stands to be found on the streets of all large towns and cities.

A faucet often leaks not because the metal parts are played out, but because the piston valve packing, which is often made of poor stuff, is done for. We fixed just such a leak the other day by cutting a piece of cowhide as a substitute. It was cheap, and the diaphragm hasn't leaked a drop since.

There are all too many girls who try to get a beautiful complexion by means of powders, waxes and lotions when if they would take more exercise at the small end of a broom, sleep eight hours out of every twenty-four, breathe deeply and frequently pure, fresh air their color as well as complexion would take care of itself.

One of the most striking instances of the tremendous power exerted by growing roots is to be seen at El Portal, the entrance to Yosemite valley, where a great sandstone boulder has been cleft from top to bottom by a live oak tree, which has reached a good size and seems to get along very well on its seemingly thin bill of fare.

Daisy Cornelia Pauline, a Holstein cow owned by a New York breeder, lately established a world's record for a week when she produced 275 pounds of butter in the seven day period. This exceeds the former record by two pounds. The new record holder is four years old and gives promise of winning other laurels before she is through.

The observance of Arbor day by the children should be encouraged at school and at home as well. It will be most interesting to them to watch their trees grow, and they will come to have a regard and affection for them which will extend to trees in general. This is one of the best methods of spreading the gospel of forest conservation and will have its effect when the children have become men and women.

Some otherwise honest people seem to think it perfectly legitimate to beat the railroad or any other large business corporation out of all they can and consider doing so a good joke. There are others who will profit by what they know to be the mistake of a merchant in quoting a price on goods who wouldn't for one minute think of taking that amount of cash out of his pocket. Still another class of people, employed by others who would never be guilty of tapping the cash drawer, will loaf and steal time for which their employer is paying his good money. Queer codes of ethics these people have.

After several years of seemingly futile effort to pass the White mountain Appalachian forest reservation bill, the chief objection against which has been that it was unconstitutional for the federal government to buy and hold as a private owner for forest reserve purposes land belonging to the several states, the bill was enacted into a law by the congress just closed. While it will accomplish the desired results, the law is so framed that it authorizes the government to purchase lands at the headwaters of navigable streams in the White mountains and Appalachian mountains "to prevent the erosion of soil and to preserve the hardwood forests" in the latter territory. The bill carries with it an appropriation of \$12,000,000, which may be devoted to the objects named. The enactment of the measure into law is a most commendable step in the direction of needed conservation.

If the prognostications of the bug men are correct there are considerable sections of the country which will in the course of two or three months be visited by the seventeen year locusts. While the locust is in the mind of many synonymous with the grasshopper, there is really very little resemblance between the two insects, the former being a transparent winged insect with broad head and stocky body of a greenish tinge closely resembling a large fly. On hatching the female locusts will be active during a period of five or six weeks. The chief damage done by them will be to young fruit trees, the young and tender twigs of which they will split in depositing their eggs. After these are deposited the mature insects will disappear into the ground for another seventeen years' sleep. It is predicted that the brood due in 1913 will be much more extensive than that of the present season's batch.

Gravel roads are popular in Michigan for the following reasons: Because they are durable and satisfactory; because they are easily built and easily repaired, requiring no expensive machinery; because the first cost is low; because they draw a relatively large state reward, frequently one-third or more of their cost; because they are a labor proposition from start to finish and keep all the money spent in their construction at home. If you have gravel, build a gravel road.

POULTRY NOTES
BY C. M. BARNITZ
INDEPENDENT
CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED



(These articles and illustrations must not be reprinted without special permission.)

BROODY BIDDY AND HER REQUIREMENTS.

Selection is the magic word in poultry culture and refers not only to picking hen to birds for breeders, but pertinently applies to the broody hen, her eggs and her nest.

Apply it to eggs and you will not get unincubated, dished out fowls in shape nor size, but fresh, medium, normal eggs, thirteen to the hen before May and fifteen later.

Not just any hen will do. Brahmas, Cochins and Langshans are rather clumsy. Rocks, Dories,



FATHERLY BIRDS.

Reds and Orpingtons are about the best. Hens crossed with Leghorns, Hamburgs, Minorcas, Spanish, Anconas, seldom all steady. The chick should be good sized, clean shanked, vigorous, but brooder, gentle and anxious to sit anywhere.

Otherwise she may die on the nest, leave her eggs or rear culs. Not just any nest will do. Small, very deep or pulpy nests mean failed eggs and omelut. Try the style shown. It is O. K. and twenty-one inches every way. Fill with wheat straw. Let Biddy shape it for eggs, then turn against wall, cover the top, let hen out once a day for food and return her before eggs are cold and expect a big hatch of eggs are fertile.

Better test eggs the seventh day to be sure of fertility, and set two hens at same time to be sure of one full hatch at least, one to be set over in case of failure.

Where should nest be located? Not in the damp, where hens get in testical colds; not on high, where they break eggs.

Cut out that damp cellar and sod from the bottom of the nest, for under natural incubation eggs get little outside moisture and that meat from the hen, so give Biddy a clean, quiet nest on a dry floor and have no



HER REWARD.

empty nests around for her to get into by mistake. Lastly, treat Biddy well. Handle her gently, keep her free from lice, furnish a sunny dust bath for her to roll in, feed her lots of whole corn, tanked with sharp grit and pure water, and she will have an undisturbed digestion.

Under such conditions incubation is no strain, but a rest cure. It assures a big hatch of dandy chicks and a mother in fine fettle to raise them to a splendid maturity.

DON'TS

Don't feed capons whole grain right after operation. Soft mash for high.

Don't buy chickens with bubbles on their nose. Cut them.

Don't thaw frozen eggs and set them in your best trade, and watch for eggs that slip under the nest straw.

Don't put the roost up near the roof unless your roosters are foot proof. Their breath will freeze above their backs, and you will have roost germs by stacks.

Don't make roosts high, but low and level. Fit to the feet and edges level.

Don't heat your water vessel with a lamp. Heat the hens with sound feed and exercise. Thus get eggs and avoid a conflagration.

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